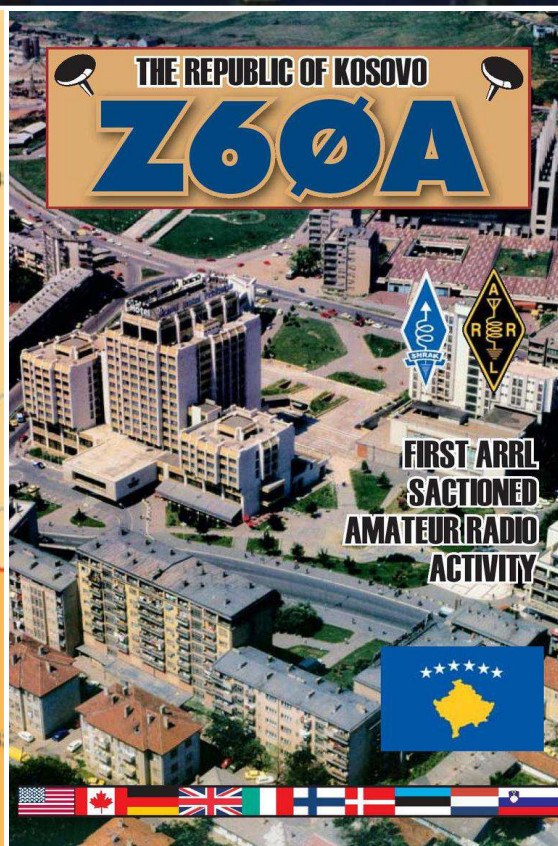


San Diego DX Club Bulletin

March 2018



MARCH PROGRAM
DXing Over the Years: Secrets to
Increasing Band Slots
By N6CW and NA6L

MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28 2018

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,

San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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From the Prez . . .

Mike, NA6MB

This month we participated in a marvelous Ham Radio happening in Mexico!

The sequence of events started when SDDXC member Jim Price K6ZH worked Mode (Modesto) Peralta XE2V on CW in the December 2017 ARRL 10 meter contest.

Jim has been interested in working a contest from Mexico for a while and this looked like a possible opening. Currently the only way to work a contest in Mexico is to operate with the local ham under their Mexican call. Jim immediately sent an email to Mode asking if he'd like a visit in March 2018 when he and Joan N6KIM were visiting Gayle K6GO and me in Cabo San Lucas. That go the ball rolling and we all started arranging people, schedules and transport to make it happen. La Paz is a two hour drive from Cabo San Lucas.

After Jim and Joan finalized their Cabo trip details, we arranged with the La Paz hams to have lunch on Saturday March 3 in La Paz. Gayle and I arranged for local some Cabo hams to join us. There were supposed to be two but one was out of town, so only Nacho (Ignacio) Rivera Romero XE2II was able to go.



The La Paz hams made a reservation at Mariscos del Mar Bismarck-cito, a beautiful restaurant on the Malecón of La Paz.

What a great group of people! There were twelve of us in all. A few of the XE2 hams that had some English, a few were very good and a few spoke no English.

Despite the language barrier we all seemed to communicate pretty well. Ham radio equipment and antennas are pretty much the same in both languages.

Mode and Felix seemed to be the most active of the group. Here are some photos of the gathering.





The La Paz BCS, Mexico Ham group.

Left to right: Mode XE2V, Mario XE2JGV, Santillan (Mode's XYL) XE2INE, Nacho XE2II (from Cabo), Jim K6ZH, Joan (Jim's XYL) N6KIM, Felix XE2I, Norma (Felix XYL) XE2JNE, Craig XE2HWJ, Ana (Craig's XYL) XE2IHA, Mike NA6NA, Mia (in front of me) and Gayle K6GO.

Not in the picture are Raul XE2R, Dindra XE2HTG and her husband Jorge.

Plans are already in motion to host some or all of these great hams in Cabo next fall.

Thanks to Jim for getting this worked out. Hope he gets to work from XE2 in the future.

See you all next Wednesday, March 28th, for the regular DX club meeting.

73 and good DX

Mike, NA6MB

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS

Meeting Minutes, February 28, 2018

At 6:30 pm Ron Richards WB1EAZ called the meeting to order. 36 members and six guests were in attendance. Our guests were Ray Waldemar, WA6NVL, Bill Hare, AD7AC, Bo Kordel, N7BK, Ulla Kordel, K7AFB, Mike (no call), Ned Stearns, AA7A (our speaker).

Old business – None

New business - The January minutes and Treasurer report were approved.

At 6:45 pm we started the roundtable discussion.

At 7:14 we took a break.

At 7:31 pm Ned Stearns, AA7A gave a presentation on how he reached 3000 countries in the DX challenge and more.

At 8:57 pm the meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer's Report

Income for February: \$100.00 for membership.

Expenses for February: \$30.00 for speaker's dinner

Statement Balance on 3/12/2018: \$6,180.47



Randy, KQ6RS

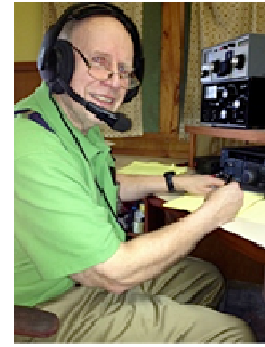


The Island Radio Expedition Foundation held their 14th annual IOTA Bash in Canyon Lake, Texas (in the Texas Hill country) on March 23—24, 2018. Presentations included: VK9AR/OC-216 Ashmore Reef, VK9AR/P/OC-234 Browse Island, S21ZAS/AS-127/ St Martins Island and S21ZAS/AS-140/Bhola Island . This year's event was memorable because the presentations were live-streamed over the IREF Facebook web page. In your editor's humble opinion, this is a superb way to extend the joy of island/IOTA/DXpedition presentations to interested DXers who may be unable to travel to a live event. My hope is that other DX events use internet streaming (and recording) to reach a broader audience.



VP Report

Ron, **WB1EAZ**



Visalia is rapidly approaching. We need individuals to staff the registration desk for Friday and Saturday. I will have a sign up list at the March meeting. If you plan on attending the Convention, please consider signing up for a slot. It would be much appreciated. There are already over 400 registrants for this years convention. If you are not able to attend the March meeting, shoot me an email at ronaldbrichards@yahoo.com to sign up for the registration desk. The registration will be open April 20, 11AM-5PM and April 21, 8AM- 5PM. We need individuals to staff the registration at these times

Speaking of DX, the first half of March has been very active with DX on the bands. Although the DXpeditions haven't been that active below 17M, the expeditions have had to fight for band space at times. Things seemed to have changed substantially since I starting working DX. Years ago, the Ts in Africa were known as the "Terrible Ts", since they were all quite rare. These days, TY, TJ, TU, and TN, are relatively common. Many years ago, it was quite difficult to get a license to operate from these locations and travel was problematic That all has changed for the most part, with the bands being filled with DX. In addition, with the low sunspot cycle, the frequencies above 20M are not very active, crowding the DX into the low bands.

It was interesting that the DXpeditions are starting to use FT8. One of the major expeditions recently noted that they were using FT8 to determine how good propagation was on the band. They planned to start on FT8 and then move to CW or SSB as propagation could support the opening. I have noted that many of the expeditions are actively using the DXpedition Mode on FT8. If you haven't installed it on your computer and downloaded the instructions, you may want to do that as a priority. In my opinion, it takes some practice to work FT8 in the DXpedition mode and when a needed expedition is on where you need a contact that is not the time to start figuring out how to work the software. As a note, there are some recognized issues with the FT8 DX mode. One that I find is that since the DX station is offset from the regular DX frequencies, it takes some listening and searching for the DX frequency. There has been a real problem with stations understanding that one needs to use the software so the computer generates split frequencies. I am hoping we can put together a program on hints and kinks working FT-8 DX mode. In the coming month, major efforts from 7Q7 and 3B7 are planned and FT-8 will likely be widely used..

February Program

Getting to 3,000 in the ARRL DXCC Challenge

By Ned Sterns AA7A

Ned provided summary of the DXCC Challenge Program and what it took for him to reach the 3,000 level, the 1st ever from a station west of the continental divide. This was a 42 year-long - effort that is not for the weak of heart. Ned noted that since he had already worked 2000 band slots when the program was started in 2000, he had somewhat of a head start. He also briefly discussed ARRL Board activities.



February Program

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March Program

DXing Over the Years: Secrets to Increasing Band Slots

By N6CW and NA6L

DXing has certainly changed in many ways over the years....from Spark Gap to the present data modes and beyond. N6CW, Terry will focus on the work that he did reaching over 100 countries confirmed on 50 MHZ. John will focus on what the technology holds today for 50 MHZ DX. Join us to learn how we all can increase our country totals for DXCC Challenge

Ron, **WB1EAZ**

SDDXC RESULTS

By John, K6AM

2017 CQ WPX PHONE DX CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
SO LP ALL	WN6K	666,965	871	403	#1 W6
SA HP ALL	W6JBR	42,366	162	138	

2017 CQ WPX CW DX CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
M2	WQ6X (+ N6CY N6KI DL3YM K4RB K6AM	7,022,757	3,246	959	#1 W6 #3 US
SO LP	WN6K	547,382	790	358	#5 W6
SA LP	W6JBR	19,588	106	83	
Checklog	KI6RRN				

John, **K6AM**

From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



Kosovo, a New DXCC Entity

It was lunchtime on Monday, January 22, 2018. The SDDXC meeting was coming up in just two more days, the January SDDXC Bulletin had been released a few days earlier and I decided to listen for DX at the low end of 20 meters. It had been a fairly long dry stretch looking for an All Time New One (ATNO) and I certainly wasn't thinking about that happening between bites of my sandwich.

But within 15 seconds of the rig coming up, I heard "CQ CQ de Z60A" coming through at about 559 before I had time to even start tuning. I was already tuned up on 14,020 and that was exactly where Z60A was calling CQ. Well, my old brain sprung into action and I responded to the CQ. One call, one ATNO for K9RHY! WOW! I wasn't sure if Z60A would be a counter on Monday, so I started up a browser and Google'd "Kosovo DXCC effective date". Within seconds I knew I had a real ATNO because Kosovo (Z6) became a DXCC counter at 0000Z on January 21, 2018.

I spotted the Z6 on the VE7CC cluster but the entry for Kosovo hadn't been updated yet. Nevertheless, the spot went out and the pileup started.

On Wednesday, I saw a spot for Z60A on 20 meter SSB. I came up on frequency and dropped my call in a couple of times without response. The operator was evidently not an experienced "runner". He had stations calling across 30 kHz and was making QSOs at a rate of about one per minute. Not good for me because I had Z6 as a Mixed and CW counter but I still needed a Phone QSO. I started to get nervous.

Then, within about five minutes, the operator announced "QRX, new operator". Within a minute or so after that, I heard a booming and familiar voice. Martti Laine, OH2BH was at the mic and firmly in control. Within three calls I was in the log and had thanked Martti for yet another new one. Thinking back, Martti has helped me out on several new countries, the best remembered was from Albania, ZA1A, immediately after its DXCC acceptance date in 1991.

Where Kosovo came from

A series of political upheavals and conflicts during the early 1990s resulted in the breakup of Yugoslavia in Eastern Europe. After a period of political crisis in the 1980s, the various republics of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia split apart, but many unsolved issues caused the long and bitter Yugoslav wars.

Following World War II, Yugoslavia existed as a federation of six republics, with borders drawn along ethnic and historical lines: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. In addition, two autonomous provinces were established within Serbia: Vojvodina and Kosovo.

The breakup of Yugoslavia was like a slow speed train wreck, starting in 1980 and finishing up in 1992. I remember watching the news about the breakup and asking my boss at the time (a German gentleman) what these people were fighting about. I'll never forget his response:

He said: "Bob, these guys have been fighting for a thousand years. They don't even remember why they fight, but they do. It may go on forever. At its heart is religion. It's a religious war."

Kosovo is a Balkan nation. You may have heard the expression "Balkanization", which is a term used to describe the process of fragmenting or dividing a region or state into smaller regions or states that are often hostile and/or uncooperative with one another. Balkanization is a perfect term for describing the origin of Kosovo.

Adding Kosovo to the DXCC List

You may be familiar with the expression: "opening a can of worms"? That expression perfectly describes the addition of Kosovo to the ARRL DXCC List.

The Europeans took the lead:

March 26, 2008 -- "The WAE Committee hereby informs that effective February, 17th 2008 (17.02.2008) Kosova [Albanian spelling] has been added to the Worked All Europe Country List."

A February 19, 2008 entry on the DXCC Dialog Weblog told us that the ARRL's position was:

"Kosovo will be added to the DXCC list [(a)] if it becomes a member of the UN, or [(b)] if it receives a prefix bloc from the ITU." It goes on to explain that "[t]he date upon which either (a) or (b) occurs will be the event date." Of course, given the current political environment, it's not at all clear when such an event date might occur; it could certainly be a long time. In the meantime, QSOs made from Kosovo prior to such an "event date" are being counted as Serbia for DXCC purposes.

Kosovo's status has been the subject of controversy in the DX community, as the ARRL declared that special operations from there on February 17, 2008 would count as Serbia, not Kosovo, for DXCC credit. The United States and many European countries immediately recognized Kosovo's independence. However, Russia and China were opposed to it and Russia threatened to veto any U.N. action to recognize Kosovo as an independent nation.

According to CQ magazine Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU:

"We are aware that the ARRL has not yet added Kosovo to the DXCC list. The League says it is waiting for Kosovo to become a member state of the United Nations or be issued a callsign block by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), a U.N. agency. However, because of geopolitical issues far beyond the realm of amateur radio, it is unlikely that the United Nations or the ITU will act on Kosovo in the near future, even though the United States and many other countries have granted it recognition."

"Because it is CQ's policy to grant credit for contacts with 'new' entities as of the date that their status changes," Moseson continued, "we have decided not to wait for U.N. action, but to follow the lead of the United States and other countries that have recognized Kosovo's independence, and to grant credit for contacts made with stations in Kosovo as of its independence day, February 17, 2008."

Some background: In 1998, the ARRL Board of Directors put in place a revised set of rules for the DXCC program. One of the changes made in the rules concerned the criteria for political entities. The new criteria were: 1) the entity must be a United Nations (UN) member state, 2) the entity has been assigned a callsign prefix bloc by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and/or 3) the entity contains a member society of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). If any or all of the three applied to an entity, it would qualify for the DXCC list as a political entity. The new set of rules worked very well for several years, giving DXers new entities such as the Temotu Province of the Solomon Islands, the Chesterfield Islands and the Palestinian Authority.

In 2004, the ARRL Board of Directors removed the third criteria, the IARU rule.

In 2006, the ARRL added a DXCC rule (Section II, Paragraph 1c) for the purpose of adding Swains Island to the DXCC list. This rule allowed the addition of Swains Island, and eventually Saint-Barth (FJ) at the end of 2007.

The process drafted for Kosovo's independence was such that membership in the U.N. would not be considered the sole measuring stick for the country's status in the international community. Welcome to the Kosovo political fight.

The start date for Kosovo's entry into the DXCC List is another can of worms that your editor declines to open. The official start date was 0000Z, January 21, 2018.

Based on the huge volume of discussion surrounding this topic, there is plenty of material to further explore for the interested DXer. I leave that exercise up to the interested reader.

A Note to Describe why this Edition of the SDDXC Bulletin is Late

Last week, as I was getting ready to put the March, 2018 edition of the SDDXC Bulletin to bed, we had a very close-by lightning strike. I knew immediately because of the loudest thunderclap I have ever heard, an intense flash of light and the fact that my movie server stopped mid-movie. I checked the Kenwood transceiver first because the most likely lightning target is the tower and the beam. But the rig was fine. My computer, however, was in a state of technical repose. My multi-function printer was also dead in the water. I now have a new computer and a new printer. But until the new computer was installed and the SSDs from the old computer were transferred to the new computer and Microsoft Publisher was running again, I was out of action. As you can see, I am now back. The moral is: "Watch out for lightning". I've been in this QTH for five (5) years and this was my first experience. Oh and BTW, I was using an APC uninterruptible power supply equipped with a surge protector that I THOUGHT would save me.

Bob, K9RHY

THE SDDXC TOP 10

By John, K6AM

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 10 METERS

2/18	2/17	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	2.	NØRR	40	327	328	338	-
2.	3.	K6AM	40	319	327	331	-
3.	4.	N6CW	40	?	297	325	-
4.	5.	W6YI	40	306	313	320	-
5.	6.	K6XT	40	290	299	311	-
6.	7.	W6YOO	40	291	297	297	-
7.	8.	KØXB	40	285	291	297	+1
8.	9.	WN6K	40	257	263	288	-
9.	10.	K6ZH	40	268	275	287	-
10.	-	N7CW	40	258	258	284	NEW

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 40 METERS

2/18	2/17	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	2.	K6XT	40	334	348	349	-
2.	3.	NØRR	40	335	348	348	+1
3.	5.	W6YI	40	334	339	341	+4
4.	4.	K6AM	40	328	335	338	-
5.	6.	N6CW	40	?	302	332	-
6.	7.	N7CW	40	320	320	329	-
7.	8.	K6ZH	39	290	296	305	-
8.	9.	WN6K	40	236	241	276	-
9.	10.	W6YOO	37	251	255	255	-
10.	-	KØXB	40	245	247	254	NEW

With last year's leader dropping out of the race, everyone moves up one place. Things have settled in for the long slumber after last year's gains have slowed to a stop. 40 remains active but I suspect many of you are on pause. We should see a lot of +1 jumps next year after the Bouvet expedition wraps up.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 80, 20, 15 meters, and then the WARC bands. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR 2017

Congratulations to our new 2017 ROTY, Joan, N6KIM. She popped onto the new ladder with 114 new ones for 2017. Did she finally succumb to all the prodding from hubby, K6ZH or did she just have an epiphany and decide to take up DX'ing after all those years as a ham? This is one of the biggest one year jumps we have ever seen. Honorable mention goes to Tom, K7YMG with 15 new ones.

John, K6AM



"It's Official! As seen here at the FlexRadio Systems Booth. Dennis is shaking hands with FlexRadio Rep after purchasing their newest direct sampling SDR Technology for every operator, the New Flex-6600 model."

THE SDDXC TOP 10

By John, K6AM

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 80 METERS

3/18	3/17	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	K6XT	40	300	309	311	-
2.	4.	W6YI	40	284	289	298	+7
3.	3.	K6NA	40	?	?	292	-
4.	5.	K6AM	40	241	245	252	-
5.	6.	N7CW	40	227	227	247	-
6.	7.	N6CW	40	?	211	235	-
7.	8.	K0XB	37	179	182	188	-
8.	9.	K6ZH	32	161	165	168	-
9.	8.	NA6L	32	157	157	164	NEW
10.	10	W6YOO	31	159	162	162	-

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 20 METERS

3/8	3/17	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	2.	N6CW	40	?	360	368	-
2.	3.	W6YI	40	338	357	358	+1
3.	4.	K6AM	40	338	348	348	-
4.	5.	K9RHY	40	336	347	347	-
5.	7.	K5OA	40	327	345	347	-
6.	6.	K6XT	40	334	346	346	-
7.	8.	W6YOO	40	337	345	345	-
8.	9.	K6ZH	40	334	343	343	-
9.	10.	K0XB	40	333	343	343	-
10.	1.	WN6K	40	323	332	338	-

The only big jump again this month is Jim W6YI, moving up to #2 on 80. The lineup on 20 remains stable again this year as most everyone has worked almost all of them. Remember to update your scores as you log those new Z6 stations on all bands

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 15 meters, and the WARC bands. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

John, K6AM